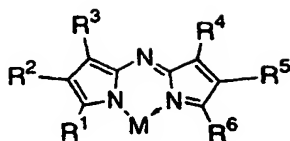


Claims:

1. A compound of the formula



or a salt, metal complex or hydrate or other solvate thereof, wherein:

M is a chelating agent;

R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from the group consisting of:

- 10 H; a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, cyclic, moiety; a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, heterocyclic moiety; or a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, straight or branched chain alkyl or acyl moiety; and
R² and R⁵ may also be independently a heavy atom or a water-solubilizing group.

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2. A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein M is selected from the group comprising: BX₂, wherein each X is independently a halide; Zn; Al; Si; Mg; Lu; and Sn.

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3. A compound as claimed in Claim 2, wherein M is BF₂.

4. A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein R¹ and R⁶ are optionally substituted phenyl.

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5. A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein R¹ and R⁶ contain an electron-donating substituent.

6. A compound as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the electron-donating substituent is alkoxy.

7. A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein R² and R⁵ are selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine.
- 5 8. A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein R² and R⁵ are selected from water-solubilizing groups.
9. A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein R³ and R⁴ are optionally substituted phenyl.
- 10 10. A compound as claimed in Claim 9, wherein R³ and R⁴ are substituted by a halide selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine.
11. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound as claimed in any
15 one of Claims 1 to 10, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.
12. A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 10 for use in a method of photodynamic therapy.
- 20 13. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 10 in the manufacture of a medicament of use in the therapy *in vivo* or *in vitro* of a photosensitive target biological cell by irradiation.
- 25 14. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 10 in the manufacture of a medicament of use in treatment of tumours in association with light.